Incentives to Iron Units

*169. SHRI MATANG SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are considering several incentives to pull sponge iron units out of red;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of the proposed measures on the industry?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c): Sponge Iron Units are expected to benefit from the following Budget proposals for the year 1993-94;

(i) Increase in the customs duty on import of steel melting scrap from 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

(ii) Reduction in the import duty on iron ore pellets from 35 per cent to 15 per cent.

(iii) Reduction in the import duty on capital goods for project import from 55 per cent to 35 per cent.

(iv) Reduction in minimum interest rate by 1 per cent.

As a result of these measures capital costs of new units and production casts of existig as well as new units will be reduced, thereby improving the viability.

Alternative Sources of Livelihood to the Scavangers

*170. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a policy decision has been taken to abolish the practice of carrying the night soil as headload;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide alternative sources of livelihood to the affected persons;

(c) the stage of survey conducted in this area; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide wheel burrows to the scavangers?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) A National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents has been launched by the Ministry of Welfare during 1991-92. The steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide alternative sources of livelihood to these persons are as under:—

(i) Identification of Scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trade through a survey.

(ii) Training in identified trades for scavengers and their dependents at the nearest local training institutions|centres of various departments of State Governments, Central Govt. (institutes set up under the Ministries of Labour and Employment, Human Resource Development, Small Scale Industraies, Rural Development Deptt.) and semi-Government and non-Government organisations.

(iii) Rehabilitation of scavengers in various trades and occupations such as agriculture and allied sector, small industry, service and business sector, by providing subsidy, Margin Money Loan and Bank Loan.

(iv) As regards implementation of the programme, stipend of Rs. 150|-p.m. per trainee (15 to 50 years age group) will be given and additional expenditure of Rs. 350 p.m. per trainee will be borne by the Government. As regards rehabilitation package the break-up of financial assistance for a project costing Rs. 50,000|- will be subsidy